

DENVER ROCKY MOUNTAIN
19 December 1985

4 anti-CIA protesters banned from CU campus

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BOULDER — Four people arrested in November's anti-CIA protest at the University of Colorado have been barred from campus, even though court cases for three of them have yet to be decided.

The activists are permitted on campus for "official business" only, and then only with police permission.

The defendants said Wednesday they believe police have thwarted justice by convicting them outside of the judicial process.

"I suppose that's a way you

could look at it," said CU police Sgt. Sharon Milligan. "But there has to be a means through which we could adhere to some of the rules of the campus.

"If they can't go by the rules when they're on campus, then we don't want them as a part of campus."

But Lt. Dave Stolz said CU is not attempting to play judge and jury.

"I don't see it that way," he said. "The warning isn't contingent on a court hearing or a conviction. It's based on observed behavior by police officers on the scene."

Those subject to the order are Mark Fearer, 29, Michele Keranen, 23, Stanley Tolle, 31, and

Mark Rolofson, 26.

Tolle received a deferred six-month sentence Dec. 11 after pleading to a class-three misdemeanor.

The case against a fifth defendant, Joseph Abner, 21, was disposed of and he left Boulder before CU police had an opportunity to issue him his warning.

The sixth protester facing prosecution, Cindy Pieropan, is a CU student, and therefore can't be barred from campus.

No one in the group is charged with more than a misdemeanor.

Keranen said she will continue to go to campus when she wants to, in spite of the order.

In doing so, Stolz said, she risks arrest.

"I think it's pretty outrageous, that the university can just make that decision like that," Keranen said.

"Not only have we not been found guilty of anything, but even if we had been, it seems to me unconstitutional that the university can ban someone from the campus for free speech."

"We certainly feel it's a totally unfair and unconstitutional practice, considering especially that this is a political issue and not a criminal one," Fearer agreed.

"Obviously, this system of justice says one is innocent until proven guilty. But the CU police department doesn't seem to believe it."

Police apprehended 210 people Nov. 18 during a day-long protest against the presence of CIA recruiters.

Charges were only pressed, however, against six activists who were accused of stepping outside protest guidelines that had been negotiated in advance between police and organizers of the demonstration.

Attorney George Johnson, who is representing the four whose cases have not been resolved, called the CU ban "very strange."